

MEXICO

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THE eyes of the civilized world to-day are turned to Mexico because of the recent war that has swept over that country. For a quarter of a century Mexico's material and educational advancement has been phenomenal; she now takes creditable rank among the leading nations of the world.

OUR STATISTICS.

Statistics recently published show that our Board has in Mexico fourteen male and sixteen female missionaries, nineteen ordained native preachers and twenty unordained; also eleven Mexican women teachers in our schools. We have 42 churches with 2,208 members, also 76 outstations, some of which will soon grow into churches. We had the past year 194 baptisms, giving us an increase of 20 per cent, in our membership. There was collected on the field the sum of \$3,104, which was used in meeting current expenses—more than one dollar per member, notwithstanding the condition of the country.

Our work may be classified under four heads, Educational, Medical, Literary and Evangelistic.

EDUCATION.

We have in Mexico sixteen schools of different grades, with 800 students. Madero Institute, at Saltillo, is taking on new life; the schools at Chihuahua and Guadalajara are full and flourishing, the new college at Guaymas, on the Pacific Coast, already has one hundred students, and the reason why it and our schools in Toluca have not, in each case, two hundred is for lack of more room and additional funds to pay current expenses. We cannot afford to stand still; nearly every other department of

our work depends on the educational, therefore we must enlarge our schools and increase their number.

FEMALE EDUCATION.—The character of any nation may be estimated by that of its women. No people can rise higher intellectually and morally than its women. Therefore, to raise a nation in the scale of humanity you must elevate its women, and this may be done by giving them Christian education. Beyond all human calculation is the influence they wield in moulding the character and shaping the lives of the boys and girls who are soon to enter into the make-up of society and give character to the nation. Because of what the Gospel has done to improve the condition of woman in the world, Christian women in the home land should be our most enthusiastic advocates of missions.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.—Rev. P. H. Pierson, who is in charge of our work at Parral, has surprised and delighted his brethren by his very remarkable success in founding and maintaining an industrial school, and that, too, at a very small cost to our Board. So far as I know this is the only school of the kind conducted by any evangelical denomination in Mexico, and it has been a decided success from the beginning. One of the best forms of education is to teach young people how to help themselves and get on in the world.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.—It never has been a part of our policy to evangelize Mexico directly by means of foreign missionaries; this must be done mainly by natives. In order to establish self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating churches we must have an educated ministry. A stream cannot rise higher than its source, nor can we expect the churches to rise higher intellectually and spiritually than their pastors. Now that the people are making such rapid strides educationally, it becomes all the more necessary that we have an educated Mexican ministry. In our schools there are now thirty choice young men who give evidence of a call to preach. Our churches

are growing and the field work spreading, while our schools—the base of our supply—are hampered by reduced quarters and a lack of funds for current expenses.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

You cannot elevate a people morally and intellectually above what they read. Allow me to furnish the the literature of a nation and I will obligate myself to control the thinking of its people; I will determine their ideals in life; I will mold their character and shape their destiny. As education is rapidly on the increase in Mexico, the people are reading more than ever before. It is all the more important that we provide them with a pure, high-toned literature. Our Baptist printing plant at Leon, with its fifteen operatives, is a bee-hive of order and activity. Missionary J. E. Davis, the director, issued twelve million pages of religious literature this last year. The great work that he is thus accomplishing for the cause of Christ is beyond all human calculation.

MEDICAL MISSIONS.

The first medical missionary was Jesus Christ; he healed people's bodies as well as their souls. Southern Baptists have in Mexico two medical missionaries—Dr. Hooker, at Guadalajara, and Mrs. Dr. Neal, at Toluca. This medical work carries the gospel to thousands of people of all classes of society, very many of whom could not be reached in any other way.

EVANGELISM.

All kinds of missionary effort should have as their ultimate end the spread of the gospel and the salvation of souls; yet evangelism is supposed to refer to the conversion of people by the ministry of the word. This may be effected by the preacher, teacher or colporter—from the pulpits—in the school room, along the highway, or from house to house. In Mexico the old-time gospel is having the old-time effect; it is proving to be the power of God unto salvation to those that believe.

NEW FIELDS

While trying still to keep up with the work which has grown and spread beyond their time and strength, the missionaries hear the Macedonian cry, inviting them to go into the regions beyond. From Uruapan to the Pacific coast, a distance of two hundred miles, the new survey has been made and the railroad will evidently go through. There we have an immense mission field which has never so much as been explored, even by a colporter. The Southern Pacific Company are driving the last spikes in the first thousand miles of their road running from California down the Pacific coast. Pablo Rodriguez, one of our evangelists, has just completed a campaign of ten weeks, holding meetings from one end of the road to the other. He is wild with enthusiasm over the outlook. This new railroad down the coast is heading for Central America, a distance of some 3,000 miles. So far as I am informed, Frank Marrs is the only American missionary of any denomination on this coast. His field reaches from California a thousand miles south to Tepic. It is like locating a man at Norfolk to work the Atlantic coast from Boston to Florida. This Pacific coast is wonderfully rich, and the people are liberal; many towns are springing up along the new railroad, and now is the opportune time to press our work. But what can we do without men? A dozen could find ample room along that new railroad.

There is urgent need for enlargement in every department of our work, and the Board is anxious to help us. Will not the pastors, churches and Sunday Schools do their very best for our Richmond Board at this time of their great need?

Guadalajara, Mexico.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD,
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,
RICHMOND, VA.